

X-FACTOR

DAVID • ARLEM • MARTINEZ • VILLARRUBIA

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DIRECT EDITION

X-FACTOR

IN A SOCIETY WHERE MUTANTS AND FORMER MUTANTS ALIKE FEEL THREATENED BY THE WORLD AROUND THEM, THEY TURN TO THEIR FIRST, BEST LINE OF DEFENSE: WHENEVER TROUBLE ARISES: X-FACTOR, THE PRIVATE DETECTIVE AGENCY FOUNDED BY MADROX, THE MULTIPLE MAN.



THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW, BULLET POINT VERSION:

- ◇ X-FACTOR HAS DISCOVERED SINGULARITY INVESTIGATIONS IS DEVELOPING A VIRUS THAT WILL KILL ALL THE FORMER MUTANTS, A MODERN DAY VERSION OF THE LEGACY VIRUS.
- ◇ THIS WAS BROUGHT TO THEIR ATTENTION BY S.I. SCIENTIST HENRY BUCHANAN, NOW DECEASED SINCE HE WAS KILLED BY A BRAINWASHED GUIDO...CURRENTLY UNCONSCIOUS BACK AT HEADQUARTERS COURTESY OF QUICKSILVER.
- ◇ MADROX, MONET, RICTOR, RAHNE AND SIRYN HAVE PENETRATED SI HEADQUARTERS BY CALLING IN A BOMB SCARE AND HAVING THE BUILDING EVACUATED.
- ◇ THEY DO NOT KNOW THAT ALIX BUCHANAN, HENRY'S WIFE, HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED BY MR. TRYF JUNIOR...THE SAME MR. TRYF WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR SIRYN'S BEATING, WHICH THEY ALSO DON'T KNOW.
- ◇ TRYF JUNIOR IS NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH TRYF SENIOR WHO, MANY YEARS AGO, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUPPOSED FREAK TORNADO THAT KILLED JAMIE'S PARENTS, A RECOLLECTION THAT TRYF SENIOR BLANKED OUT OF THE YOUNG MADROX'S MEMORY.
- ◇ WHILE IN S.I. HEADQUARTERS, MADROX, RAHNE AND MONET FIND THEMSELVES FACE TO FACE WITH THE FUTURE VERSION OF MR. TRYF, WHO INFORMS THEM THAT THEY ARE ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THIS BATTLE.
- ◇ PETER'S THREE YEAR OLD DAUGHTER, CAROLINE, SEEMS TO BE OVER THE HUMP IN POTTY TRAINING, ALTHOUGH PETER NOW HAS TO SING THE "HAPPY PEE" SONG EVERY TIME SHE GOES IN THE TOILET. HE'S HOPING THAT WILL END BY THE TIME SHE STARTS HIGH SCHOOL.

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⊗ YEARS FROM NOW...

IT IS SAID THAT ANY SUFFICIENTLY ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY WILL BE INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM MAGIC.

THE SAME COULD BE SAID OF SUFFICIENTLY ADVANCED BIOLOGY.

THERE IS NO SCIENTIFIC, RATIONAL MEANS OF EXPLAINING HOW ONE COULD JUST WAVE ONE'S HANDS AND COMMAND THE ELEMENTS, OR FLY...

WHORP
DOH!

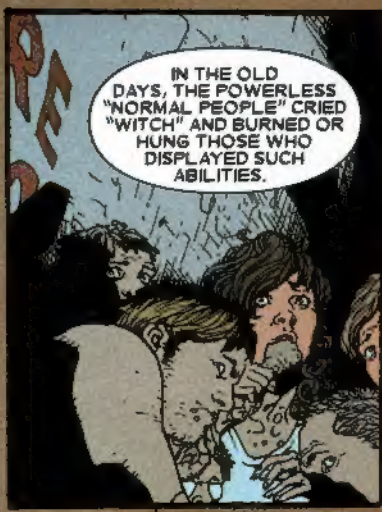
GLIVE
AME

KEEP
OUT!

WASTE
LIFE



...OR GENERATE LIGHTNING BOLTS FROM ONE'S EYES.



IN THE OLD DAYS, THE POWERLESS "NORMAL PEOPLE" CRIED "WITCH" AND BURNED OR HUNG THOSE WHO DISPLAYED SUCH ABILITIES.



IN MY DAY, HOWEVER...IN DAYS TO COME...MANY, MANY YEARS FROM NOW...

THE NORMAL PEOPLE JUST DIE.



I AM NOT A NORMAL PERSON. NEVER HAVE BEEN.

WHEN THE HUMANS WERE MANY AND MY KIND WERE FEW, I DESPISED THEM.

BUT THEN
THE HUMANS BECAME
FEW, AND MY KIND
MANY...

...AND
INSANE.

DRUNK
WITH POWER,
GLORYING IN THEIR
MULTITUDES.

I TRIED TO
WARN THEM OF
THEIR FOLLY, BUT
THEY DID NOT
LISTEN.

ALL RIGHT,
ACTUALLY...THEY DID.
THEY SIMPLY DIDN'T LIKE
WHAT THEY HEARD. IN
FACT, THEY DIDN'T
LIKE IT A LOT.

MY GREATEST
WISH WAS FOR IMMORTALITY,
AND I TRAVELED FAR AND WIDE,
STUDIED DARK ARTS. ACQUIRED
MUCH KNOWLEDGE TO
ACHIEVE THAT AIM.

THE OLD SAYING
ABOUT BEING WARY OF
WHAT YOU WISH FOR LEST
YOU GET IT IS A VERY
SAGE ONE.

FOR A
DOOMED RACE,
HUMANS EXCELLED
AT SAYINGS.

DOWN
HERE!

MUTANT
POWERS CAN
CONTINUE TO
MUTATE, GIVEN
ENOUGH TIME.

MY BEING
ATTUNED TO THE
ELEMENTAL NATURE
OF THE EARTH LINKED
ME TO OUR PLANET'S
VERY ESSENCE. I BEGAN
TO EXIST AT ALL POINTS
IN MY OWN LIFELINE. A
TRUE "MULTIPLE MAN,"
IF YOU WILL.

?

MY PRESENT
AND PAST FORMS ARE
SOLID ENOUGH, SINCE
TIME HAS CAUGHT UP WITH
THEM. I AM MORE...
ELUSIVE...SINCE THE
FUTURE REMAINS
MUTABLE.

THERE IS,
HOWEVER, A
PROBLEM...



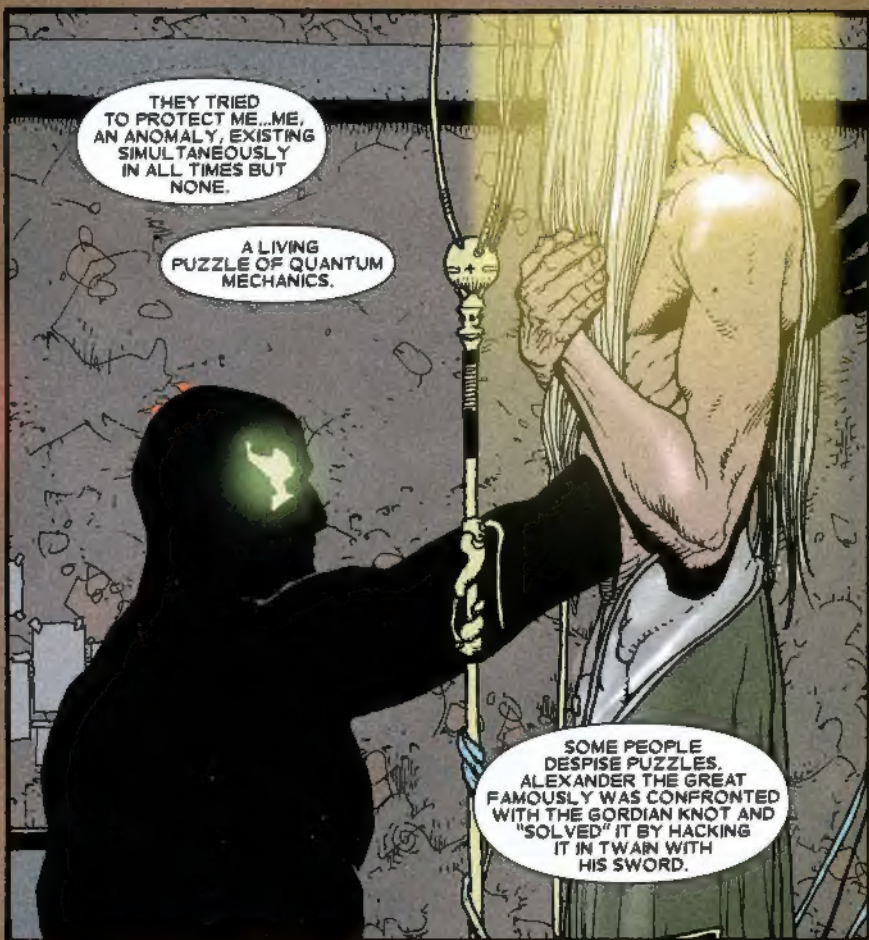
MY BODY--
MY VERY EXISTENCE--
HAS BECOME UNSTABLE.
SO IN THE FUTURE, I
DEVELOPED MACHINERY
TO PERPETUATE ME.

NOT UNLIKE
A FEEBLE INDIVIDUAL
HOOKED UP TO LIFE
SUPPORT.



THUS DO
I CONTINUE TO
SURVIVE, AIDED BY
A SMALL BAND OF
SUPPORTERS...

A BAND
WHICH, I FEAR, HAS
SHRUNK TO NON-
EXISTENCE.



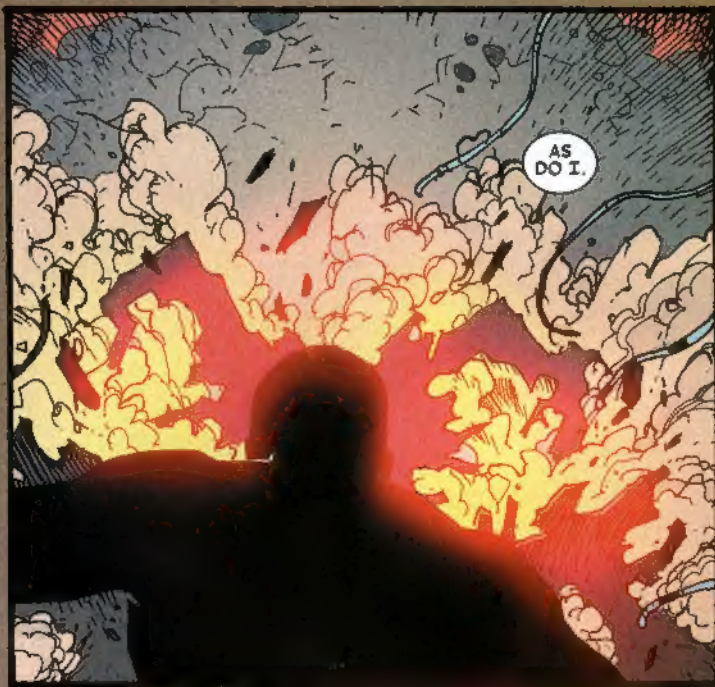
THEY TRIED
TO PROTECT ME...ME,
AN ANOMALY, EXISTING
SIMULTANEOUSLY
IN ALL TIMES BUT
NONE.

A LIVING
PUZZLE OF QUANTUM
MECHANICS.

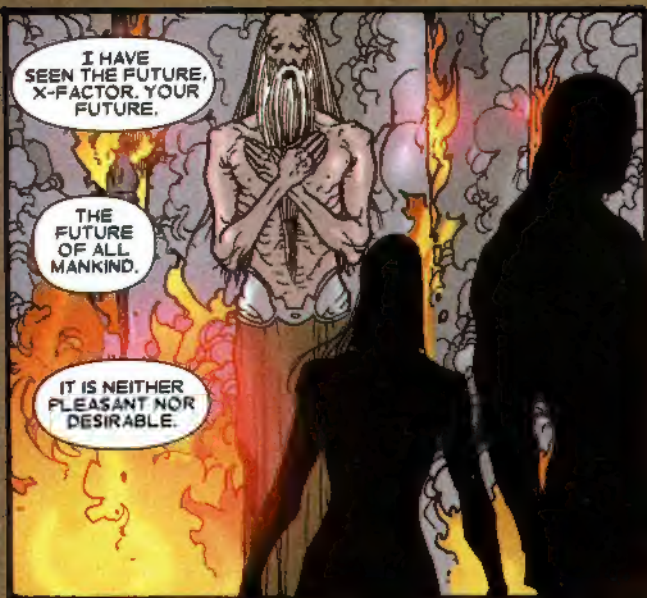
SOME PEOPLE
DESPISE PUZZLES.
ALEXANDER THE GREAT
FAMOUSLY WAS CONFRONTED
WITH THE GORDIAN KNOT AND
"SOLVED" IT BY HACKING
IT IN TWAIN WITH
HIS SWORD.



HIS
SPIRIT LIVES
ON.



AS
DO I.



I HAVE
SEEN THE FUTURE,
X-FACTOR. YOUR
FUTURE.

THE
FUTURE
OF ALL
MANKIND.

IT IS NEITHER
PLEASANT NOR
DESIRABLE.



NOR IS
IT ONE, I
REGRET TO
SAY...



...THAT I AM,
AT THE MOMENT,
PART OF.

I AM
TRAPPED
BETWEEN STATES
OF EXISTENCE. I
AM NEITHER HERE
NOR THERE.



THE REASON
FOR THIS...IS BECAUSE
THERE ARE MUTANTS.
LOTS OF THEM.

AND THE
REASON THERE
ARE LOTS OF
MUTANTS...



...IS
YOU.

THIS IS
X-FACTOR UNIT
27. TARGET
TRYP LOCATED
AND BELIEVED
TERMINATED.

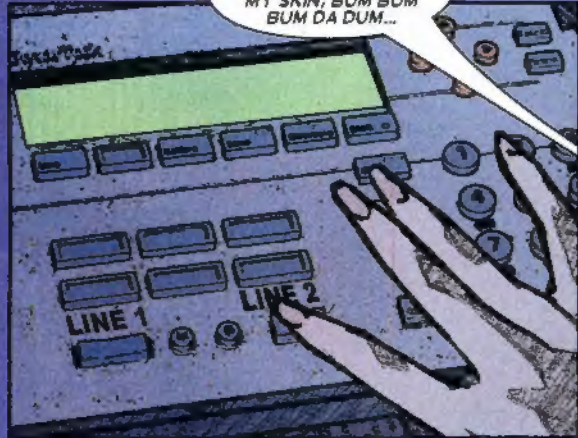




--ORDER
A PIZZA? FOR
DELIVERY?

YES,
I'LL HOLD.
THANKS.

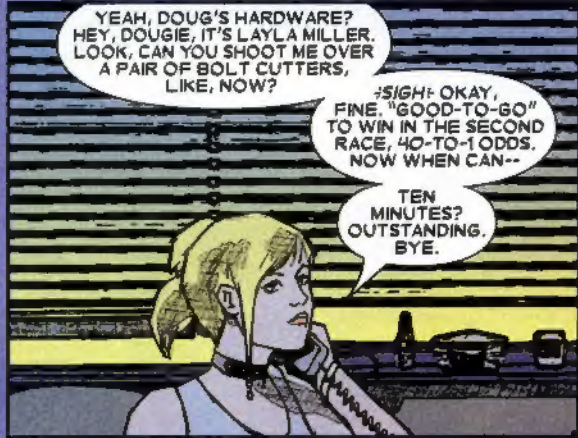
WOMAN, THE
WAY YOU WENT YOUR
WAY, GETTING UNDER
MY SKIN, BUM BUM
BUM DA DUM...



YEAH, DOUG'S HARDWARE?
HEY, DOUGIE, IT'S LAYLA MILLER.
LOOK, CAN YOU SHOOT ME OVER
A PAIR OF BOLT CUTTERS,
LIKE, NOW?

SIGH: OKAY,
FINE. "GOOD-TO-GO"
TO WIN IN THE SECOND
RACE, 40-TO-1 ODDS.
NOW WHEN CAN--

TEN
MINUTES?
OUTSTANDING.
BYE.

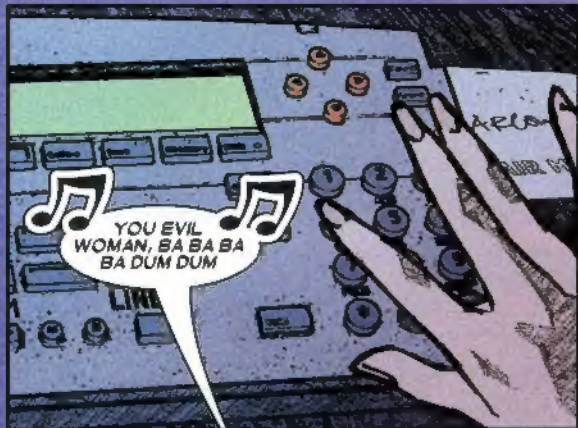


HI, YOU THERE? GOOD.
SO--ONE REGULAR PIE,
EXTRA CHEESE, 367
GREENWICH AVENUE.

THIRTY
MINUTES?
OUTSTANDING.
BYE.



YOU EVIL
WOMAN, BA BA BA
BA DUM DUM



HEY THERE.
I'D LIKE TO ORDER A
PIZZA TO BE DELIVERED.
YOU STILL GOT THAT
THIRTY MINUTE THING
GOING?

OUTSTANDING.





HOLY GEEZ!

WHERE THE HELL DID THIS COME FROM!?

LIKE A FREAKIN' HURRICANE!



GET THESE PEOPLE BACK AWAY FROM THE BUILDING! BACK!!

MR. TRYP, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ASK YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE TO CLEAR THE ENTIRE AREA WHILE--



MR. TRYP?!?!



NICE DISTRACTION, TRYP, OLD BOY.

I THOUGHT YOU'D APPRECIATE IT, "MY SON." ALIX BUCHANAN IS ATTENDED TO?

YES, SHE'S IN A VAN BEING TRANSPORTED TO A SECURE LOCATION.

GOOD, SHE'LL BE VALUABLE LEVERAGE.



"LEVERAGE?" DO YOU THINK--

WE'RE UNDER ATTACK? IT'S ALWAYS SAFER TO PROCEED ON THAT ASSUMPTION.

I'M BETTING IT'S X-FACTOR.

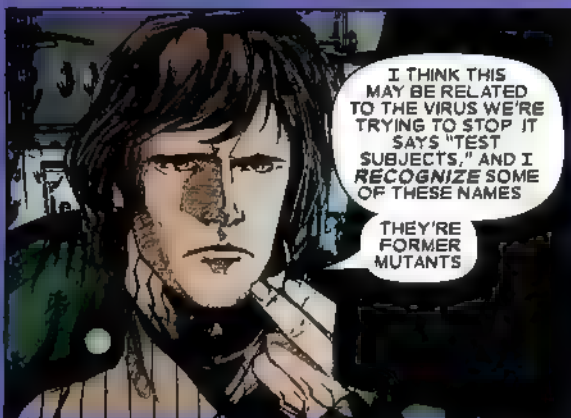
AND I'M THINKING WE SHOULD TAKE THEM DOWN PERMANENTLY.



IT'S ABOUT BLOODY TIME.



HEY,
THERESA! GET
IN HERE! THERE'S
SOME STUFF IN HERE
YOU SHOULD BE
CHECKING OUT...



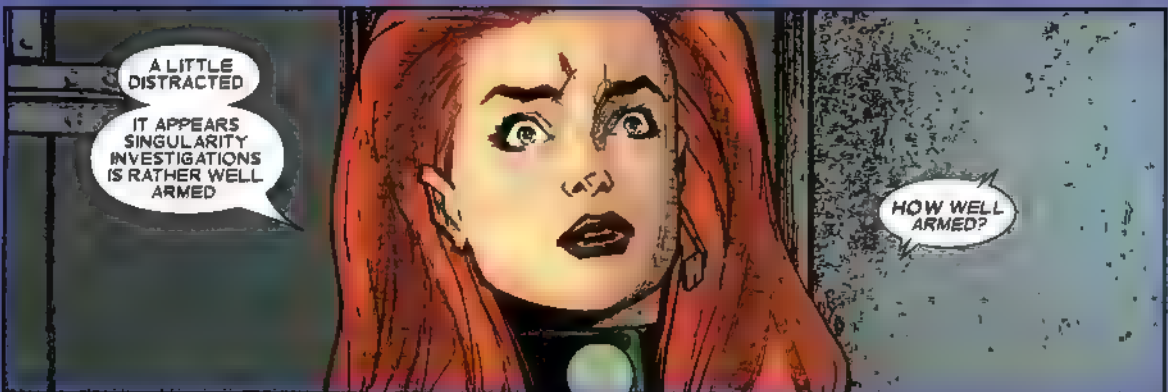
I THINK THIS
MAY BE RELATED
TO THE VIRUS WE'RE
TRYING TO STOP IT
SAYS "TEST
SUBJECTS," AND I
RECOGNIZE SOME
OF THESE NAMES

THEY'RE
FORMER
MUTANTS



THERESA! YO,
"SCREAMING MIMI?"
YOU COPYING
THIS ?

I HEAR
YOU, RIC. I'M
JUST...



A LITTLE
DISTRACTED

IT APPEARS
SINGULARITY
INVESTIGATIONS
IS RATHER WELL
ARMED

HOW WELL
ARMED?



PRETTY
DARNED



MONET.
CAN YOU—?

CALM DOWN,
FOR GOD'S SAKE,
WILL YOU, JAMIE? I
CAN'T SENSE A THING
IF YOU'RE THIS
FRANTIC.



WHAT YOU
WILL SENSE IS THAT
THE YOUNG LADY IS IN
DEEP SHOCK. SHE WILL
RECOVER.

HUMANITY,
HOWEVER, WILL
NOT, IF YOU PERSIST
IN YOUR COURSE TO
SAFEGUARD THE
FORMER MUTANTS

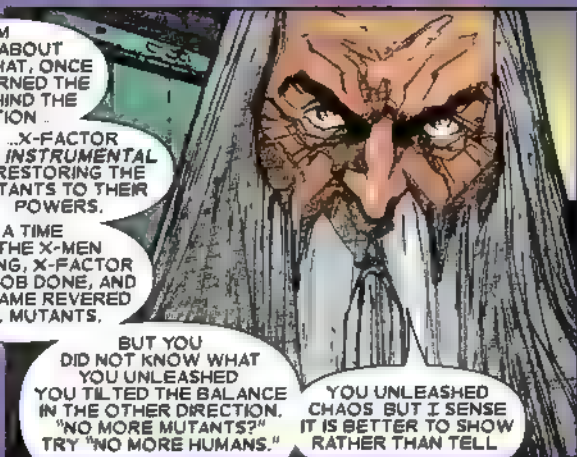


WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?

I AM
TALKING ABOUT
THE FACT THAT, ONCE
HAVING LEARNED THE
TRUTH BEHIND THE
DECIMATION .

...X-FACTOR
WAS INSTRUMENTAL
IN RESTORING THE
MUTANTS TO THEIR
POWERS.

AT A TIME
WHEN THE X-MEN
DID NOTHING, X-FACTOR
GOT THE JOB DONE, AND
THUS BECAME REVERED
BY ALL MUTANTS.



BUT YOU
DID NOT KNOW WHAT
YOU UNLEASHED
YOU TILTED THE BALANCE
IN THE OTHER DIRECTION.
"NO MORE MUTANTS?"
TRY "NO MORE HUMANS."

YOU UNLEASHED
CHAOS BUT I SENSE
IT IS BETTER TO SHOW
RATHER THAN TELL

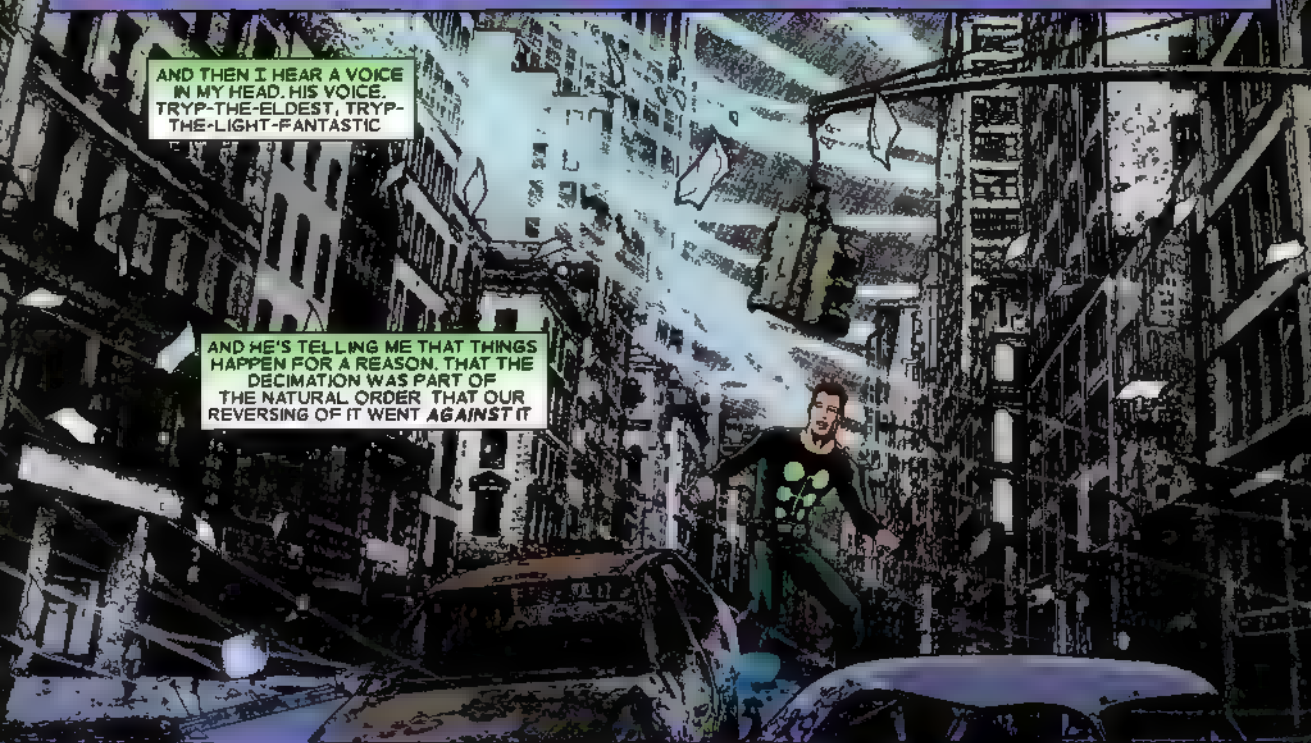


AND
TAPPING
YOUR PSYCHIC
POWERS WILL
ENABLE ME
TO...

SORRY,
CASPER, YOU'RE
NOT GETTING YOUR
GHOSTLY HANDS
ON ME



FORTUNATELY
ENOUGH...





WE
UNLEASHED
EVEN MORE

THE MEAK DON'T INHERIT
THE EARTH. MUTANTS DO
THE LESSONS OF CHARLES
XAVIER ARE LOST IN A BATTLE-
GROUND OF FIRE AND FURY.
ABSOLUTE POWER
CORRUPTING ABSOLUTELY

CONQUERING THE
HUMANS ISN'T THAT
MUCH OF A CHORE
IT'S ACCOMPLISHED
EASILY ENOUGH

BUT IT CREATES A POWER
VACUUM, AND NATURE
ABHORS A VACUUM. SO THE
MUTANTS TURN AGAINST
EACH OTHER, IN A WAR THAT
LAYS WASTE TO THE
POPULACE... TO THE WORLD

AND TRY'S VOICE SAYS, "NOW
DO YOU SEE? WE'RE CREATING
A VIRUS TO KILL ALL THE
FORMER MUTANTS. SO THEY
DON'T RECOVER THEIR ABILITIES
IT WAS EITHER DESTROY THEM

...OR DESTROY YOU.
WE'RE PREPARED FOR
BOTH CONTINGENCIES

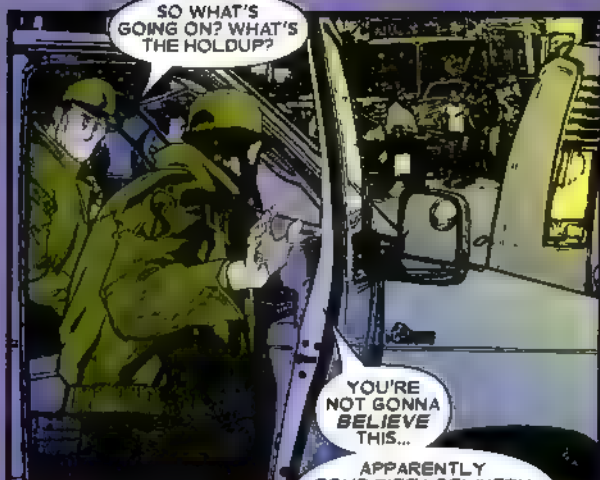
EITHER WAY, SOMETHING
HAS TO GO. BECAUSE THE
WORLD OF MY FUTURE...
IT'S NO WORLD AT ALL."





"...EVEN AS WE SPEAK, MRS. BUCHANAN IS BEING DRIVEN TO A SECURE LOCATION."

"IF X-FACTOR DOES NOT VACATE THIS BUILDING IMMEDIATELY, HER LIFE IS FORFEIT."

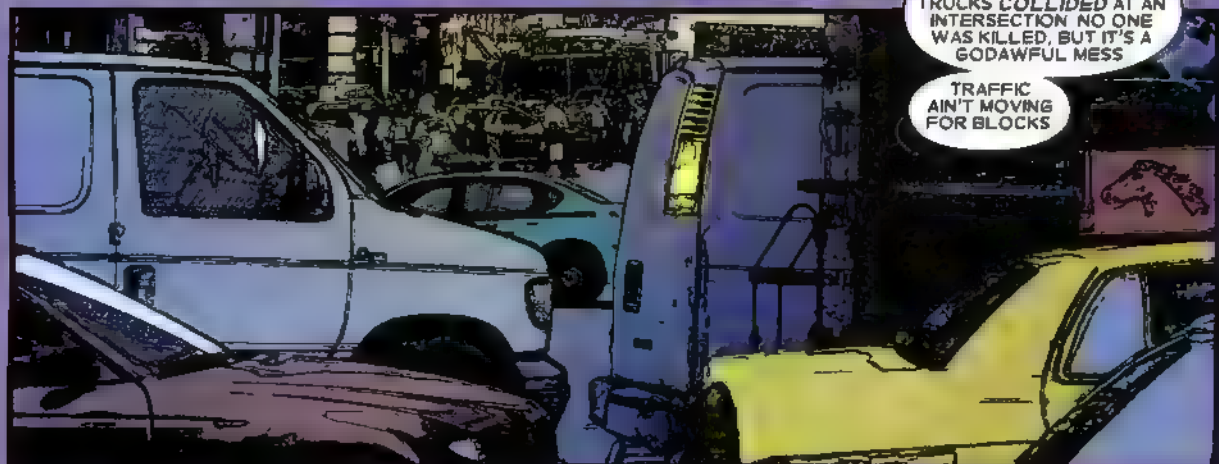


SO WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT'S THE HOLDUP?

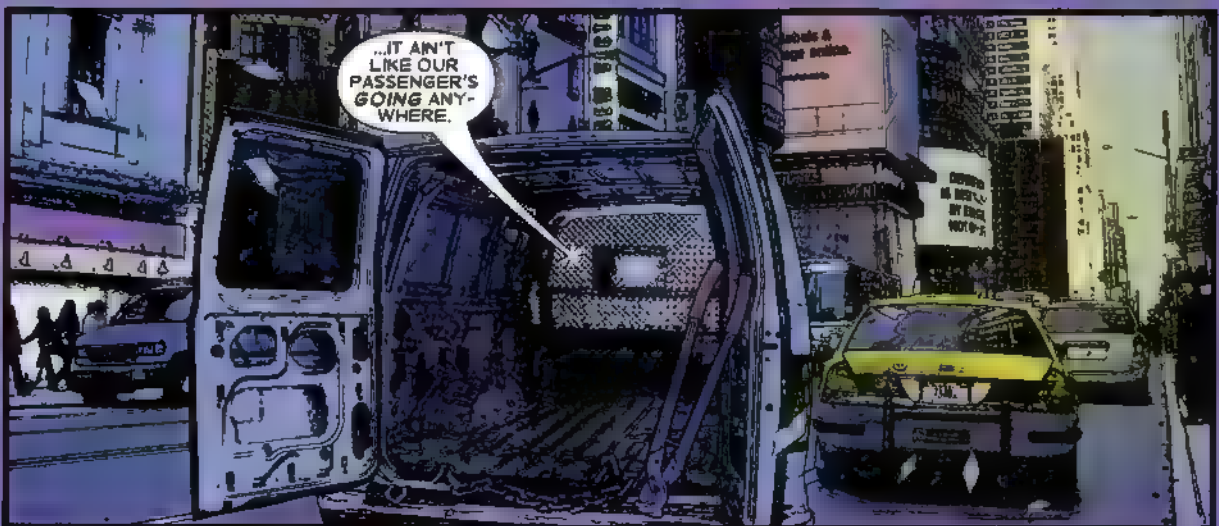
YOU'RE NOT GONNA BELIEVE THIS...

APPARENTLY FOUR PIZZA DELIVERY TRUCKS COLLIDED AT AN INTERSECTION. NO ONE WAS KILLED, BUT IT'S A GODAWFUL MESS.

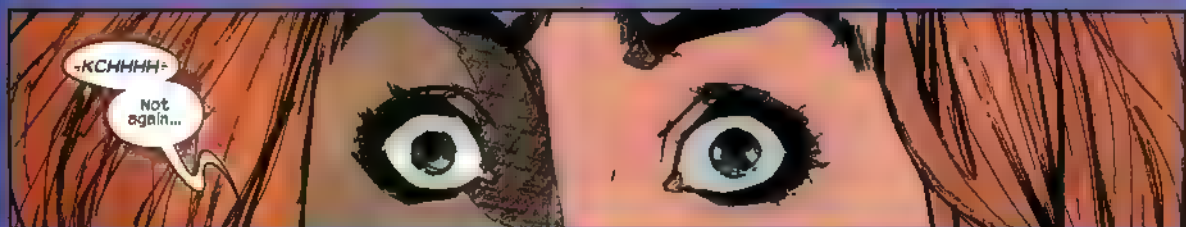
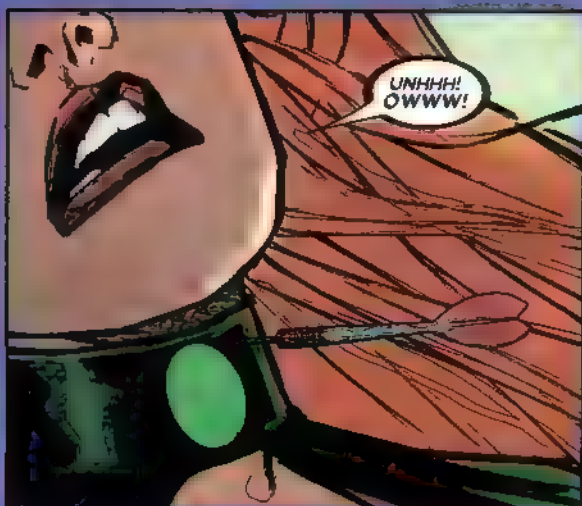
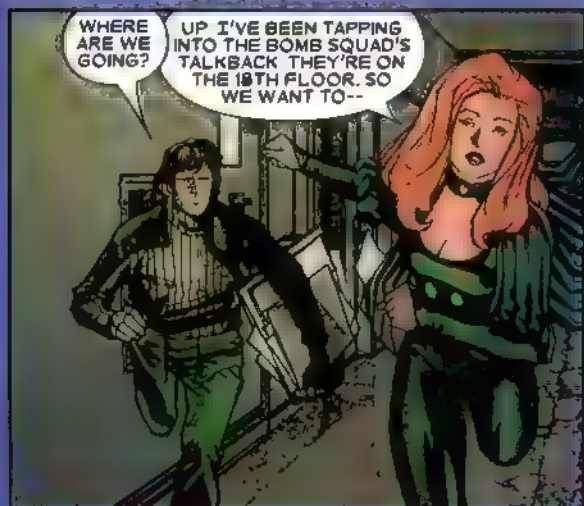
TRAFFIC AIN'T MOVING FOR BLOCKS.

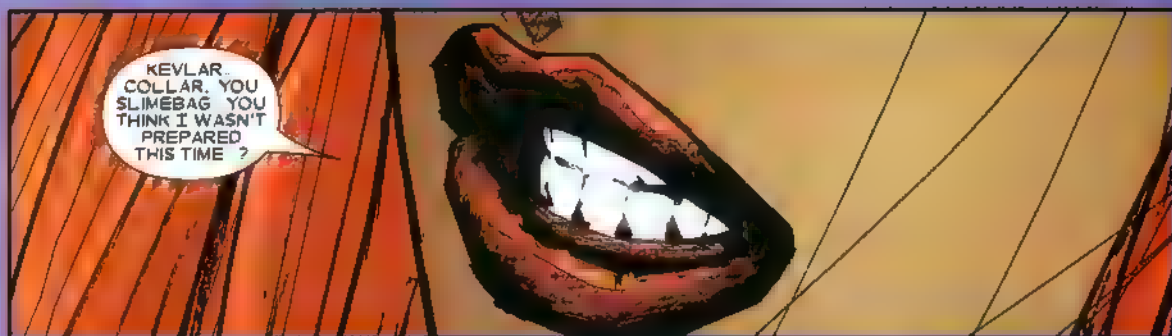


YEAH, WELL...WHAT-
EVER AFTER
ALL...



...IT AIN'T
LIKE OUR
PASSENGER'S
GOING ANY-
WHERE.





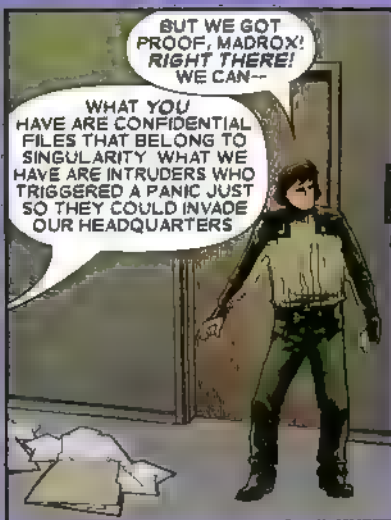


EVERYBODY,
HOLD IT!



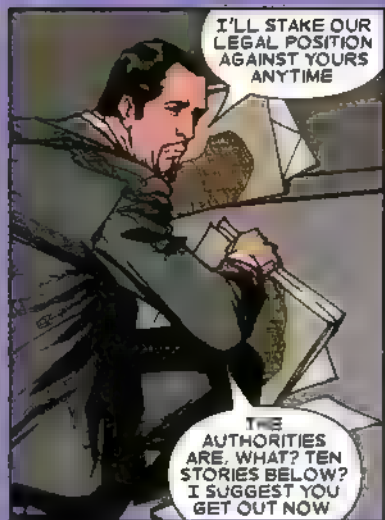
SY, RIC...STAND
DOWN, THAT'S
AN ORDER.

WE HAVE TO
BAIL, THERE'S A
HOSTAGE
SITUATION, ALIX
BUCHANAN



BUT WE GOT
PROOF, MADROX!
RIGHT THERE!
WE CAN--

WHAT YOU
HAVE ARE CONFIDENTIAL
FILES THAT BELONG TO
SINGULARITY WHAT WE
HAVE ARE INTRUDERS WHO
TRIGGERED A PANIC JUST
SO THEY COULD INVADE
OUR HEADQUARTERS

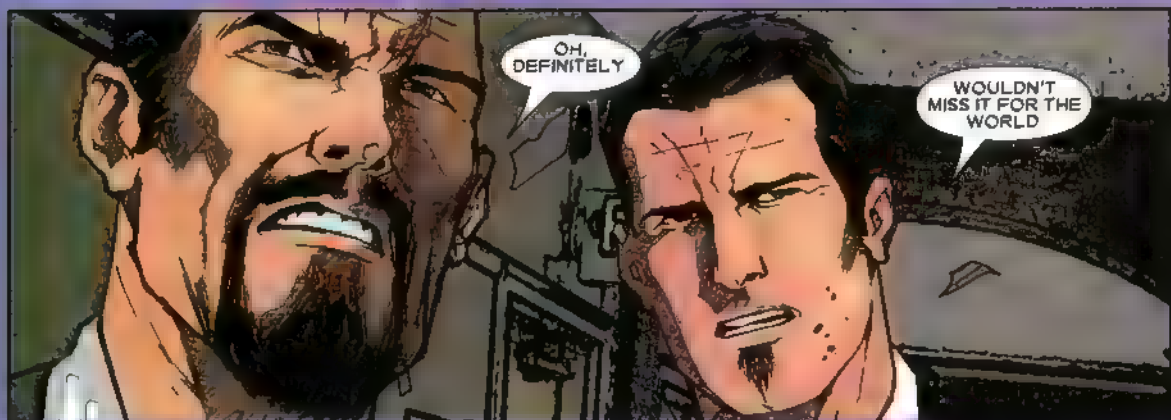


I'LL STAKE OUR
LEGAL POSITION
AGAINST YOURS
ANYTIME

THE
AUTHORITIES
ARE, WHAT? TEN
STORIES BELOW?
I SUGGEST YOU
GET OUT NOW

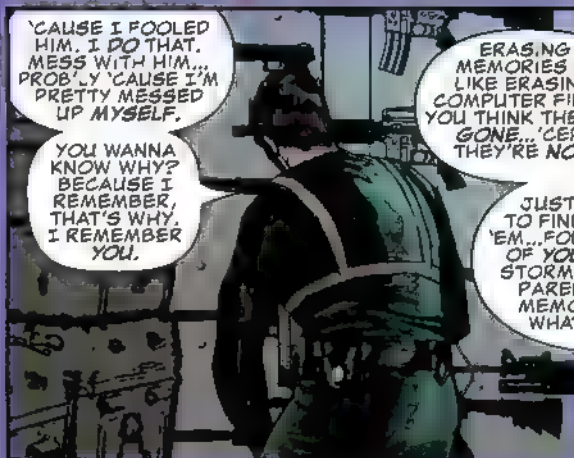


THIS ISN'T
OVER, TRY'P
COUNT ON
IT



OH,
DEFINITELY

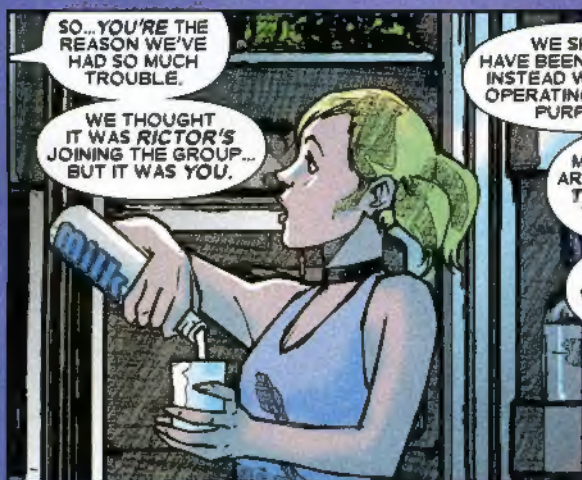
WOULDN'T
MISS IT FOR THE
WORLD











X-FACTOR

Welcome to that bastion of clarity, the X-FACTOR letters page, where almost every issue has brand new letters. Peter David here, and editor Andy Schmidt—or, as we call him, The Andyman (Who can make your sales rise? The Andyman can. Say his name, “Andyman,” three times and he’ll appear, demanding solicit information for an issue shipping in February 2008)—asked me specifically to plug “X-FACTOR #13.” You remember: The redux of the acclaimed psychiatric issue, “X-FACTOR #87,” complete with Joe Quesada-penciled alternate cover. But you know what? I refused. I didn’t want to do a hard sell. I told him firmly, I said, “Andyman...I have too much respect for the fans. I’m not going to insult their intelligence by hitting them over the head, no sir. If it makes sense to slip in a reference to XF #13, yeah, sure, I could bring it up, but I’m not going to belabor it. Either they’ll buy it or, even better, order it in advance from their retailer, or they won’t. End of story.” And I intend to stick by that. And now, on to your letters which, as always, may be edited for length but not content.

Dear Marvel,

Did Strong Guy’s yo-yo survive that rocket launcher explosion in X-FACTOR, v.3, #10?

Ann Nichols
Sierra Vista, AZ

Yes, Ann, I’m happy to report that Guido’s adamantium yo-yo did, in fact, survive the explosion. In fact, you can see him playing with it in the opening pages of “X-FACTOR #13.”

X-Factory,

Golly, X-FACTOR is good. All of the other X-books seem to have a weird and probably undeserved pretentiousness and condescension about them, almost as though the creators think that they’re gods, whatever they say goes and we all just have to like it.

X-FACTOR, on the other hand, is entirely unpretentious. It really feels as though at the end of each issue, Peter David takes a nice long look at the state of the characters that make up the X-Factory team, and then at the rest of the Marvel Universe, and asks: “What would Guido do?” And that’s exactly what we see in the following issue.

Keep up the great work and, as always, MAKE MINE MADROX, MONET, MILLER and MAXIMOFF!

Adrian J. Watts
Melbourne, Australia

I kind of like the idea of people wearing necklaces that say “WWGD.” As far as undeserved pretension and condescension goes, Adrian, I’m happy to say that, yes, I keep those out of my work on X-FACTOR entirely and instead right where such attitudes belong: On my blog and internet postings. And I’m sure you’ll be pleased to know that your four favorite “M’s” will all be on display next issue, “X-FACTOR #13.”

X-Central:

I just finished reading X-FACTOR #10 and wow. It was so different than what I expected. I was really hoping for some insight on how Tryp killed Jamie’s parents. I’ve had a few theories and I was waiting to see if they were right, and then you threw me for a curve there.

First off, I’m not happy with the relationships Jamie now has with Siryn and M. I can see how that may work with the characters, but it certainly brings more stress on Madrox. I did find Layla’s comment pretty funny though.

Now, the big stuff: Guido. That really threw me off and now I’m itching to find out what happens next. How he fits in with Singularity, how that’ll work out with X-Factory, and why Layla doesn’t know anything about him.

And I saw on the CIVIL WAR schedule that there’s not going to be another X-FACTOR crossover? Why’s that?

Jez Layman
(Via E-Mail)

Because, Jez, I’ve learned from experience that dragging a storyline out in order to accommodate crossovers can be detrimental to a book. Twelve issues seemed to be about right for X-FACTOR’s initial confrontation with Singularity Investigations. Putting the storyline on the backburner to do more CIVIL WAR tie-ins might have given us short term sales boosts but, I believe, would have hurt us in the long run, both sales wise and—even more importantly—creatively. And if it’s stress on Madrox or wanting to know what will happen with Guido that interests you, might I suggest you reserve your copy of “X-FACTOR #13,” which addresses both of those?

X-Central:

You know what? I hate you. I really do. Every freakin’ month you have me buy X-FACTOR and I read it last and it never fails to impress me. No, not impress—entertain me until I reach a mental nirvana. Issue #10 was just... wow. I had totally forgotten that a member was going to betray the team and

you basically ripped my heart out in the last two final pages.

Greg Anderson
(Via E-Mail)

That’s nothin’, Greg. Just wait’ll you see the last two pages of “X-FACTOR #13.” Talk about shattering.

Dear Marvel:

Why do Jamie Madrox’s clothes remain the same when he “sucks” back in a duplicate whose outfit differs from his own? Is it one of those little things we should just accept, the way we accept a non-invulnerable super hero(ine)’s head smacking into a brick wall and having the bricks break instead of his/her skull?

Ann Nichols
Sierra Vista, AZ

Oh...Ann...hi, it’s, uh...it’s you again, I see. With another darn good question. Yup. That’s a really, really good question. And I’d be happy to answer it, but...oops...out of time. I have to go work on the letters page for “X-FACTOR #13!”

—PAD



EXAMINATIONS!

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